

CERCLIS SITE DECISION: Armstrong World Industries

The Armstrong World Industries ("the Site") site is located at 5037 Patata Street in South Gate, Los Angeles County, California. The site is situated on one county parcel and occupies approximately 27 acres in a mixed industrial and residential area located adjacent to the Los Angeles River. The site is currently owned by the Armstrong Cork Co., which was founded in 1860 in Pittsburgh, PA. The company currently operates as Armstrong World Industries, Inc. (AWI).

The Site is occupied by a large manufacturing complex that encompassed approximately 5.5 acres on the western half of the site. The complex is U-shaped with a central courtyard that opens towards the east. The Site surface appears to be primarily covered with asphalt excluding buildings and the eastern portion of the site, which abuts the Los Angeles River. The parcel abutting the Los Angeles River appears to be soil cover and includes a drainage basin emptying into the river. In addition, an oil/water separator (i.e., clarifier) was reportedly located in the central portion of the Site.

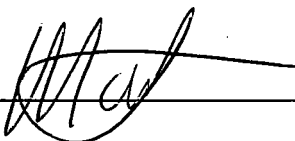
The Site reportedly has been utilized by AWI for the manufacture of resilient flooring (e.g., vinyl flooring, linoleum, cork floor) since approximately 1937. The manufacturing plant has expanded several times since the firm began operations, but production, storage, and distribution of vinyl floor tiles has been the primary operation at the Site. Historically, an on-site hazardous waste treatment unit was located at the facility. Use of the treatment system was discontinued in 1997 after 'coating-line' operations at the facility were terminated. Vinyl floor tile manufacturing operations typically involve the combination of vinyl resin with various additives including: plasticizers, stabilizers, pigments, and fillers. Brine, limestone, solid vinyl resin, diisononyl phthalate (DINP), and butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP) are reportedly stored on site in large above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) Asbestos is also documented to have been stored at the site as recently as 2005.

Documentation of hazardous substances used and/or stored on the site include, but are not limited to: volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including dichloromethane (DCM), methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA), trichloroethylene (TCE), and vinyl acetate (VA); metals including lead, mercury, and zinc, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and asbestos. Specific hazardous substance storage and disposal practices have not been documented. Documentation of the use of these substances is based on hazardous waste manifests, generator reports, and regulatory database information.

The site boundary is located approximately 250 feet south of the former Hoffman Well 2, which was historically operated by the Golden State Water Company and was destroyed in approximately 2007 due to concentrations of TCE that exceeded 10 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). Local groundwater is known to be impacted by various halogenated solvent contamination, including TCE, along with metals.

Due to the Site's historical use of halogenated solvents, including TCE, along with other VOCs and metals, the Site warrants further Federal action to assess whether it is a likely source of the halogenated solvent and metals contamination known to exist in area groundwater and drinking water wells.

Site Assessment Manager: _____



Date: 9/22/14